

# DRAFT

## **TOWN OF TURTLE** **CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING** **MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2009**

1. **Meeting called to order** by Chairman Don Jones at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Members present** were Ralph Carlson, Ethel Maxworthy, Jean Swanson, Chairman Don Jones, Supervisor Tim Kopp and Sexton-Mike Birkholz, also representing the Highway Dept. Absent was Chuck Wollslair, Greg Skokut  
Citizens present – Cathy Soderberg and Ed Swanson
3. **Sept Agenda** – Motion made to approve the agenda by Tim Kopp, seconded by Ralph Carlson. Chairman Jones asked to have item 9-c brought up to the Citizens Remarks (#7) on the agenda. All members agreed to the change. All present gave their verbal approval to the agenda with noted change.
4. **Minutes** were read and motion made by Tim Kopp, seconded by Don Jones to approve the August minutes. Members gave verbal approval.
5. **The Financial Report** was given to each member with Ethel Maxworthy making the motion to approve, seconded by Tim Kopp. All members approved.
6. **The Sexton Report** was given by Sexton, Mike Birkholz. There were three burials in August, all in Shopiere Cemetery. Already have 2 more burials slated for Turtleville Cemetery in Sept. It was noted that one individual has buried in our cemetery solely because of the low price of grave sites. The question was made if we might need to consider two different price points – one being for residence and another for non-residents. It was discussed among members and agreed that it might be something in the future but would also be very hard to enforce (i.e.) being time frames of death and what might be constituted as “family members” at later date. This is not something that the committee would consider at this time. The question was asked if all funeral institutes are currently paying the \$20.00 “headstone fee”. Sexton Birkholz indicated there were a couple that have not and presently are not paying. This needs to be addressed.
7. **Citizens Remarks.** Cathy Soderberg spoke to the committee referenced what she found in her search for cemetery/markers. She indicated that she and husband Mike have established a website for searching out markers and grave sites for individuals that request their services. She has been working with Sexton Birkholz and found a couple sites/markers that needed to be uncovered and cleaned, took pictures and gave the requested information to the individuals who made the original search request. Sexton Birkholz said this type of work and effort, working with our committee and himself would be very beneficial to all concerned. Cathy left some information with the committee in reference to her website and the type of work offered. Another matter that concerned the committee was that a “scavenger hunter” was searching for clues within the confinement of Turtleville Cemetery. There was never any permission given for any persons concerned to place anything within the cemetery and no permission for anyone to be hunting clues or scavenging. This is a matter to be watched in the future; and might be worthwhile to indicate such action would not be tolerated, on any upcoming or new signage within the cemeteries.

8. **Old Business:**

- a) Sweet Marker – This issue has been tossed around for several meetings and has not been resolved. The committee voted to take this item off the agenda and with permission of Mike Birkholz, leave the marker in storage at the Highway Dept. building.
- b) Signage – Committee members have looked at several other cemeteries throughout the state and noted their signs. It is our next move to determine what to say and when to start these new signs. Also find a sign painter who would be willing to work with us. It was noted that Mike Kelly of Sharon has completed many nice signs and that his costs were very much in-line.
- c) LLS Clean Cut – Kevin was not able to be at this meeting. He will talk to Chairman Jones as soon as possible.
- d) Restoration of Stones – A list was given to members to review. This list was made from the information at the Cemetery Clean Up and Stone Review at the June meeting on the cemetery grounds. Committee is waiting for the recommendations of LLS, Clean Cut. It was again brought up of the possibility of cleaning the stones. No commitment made.
- e) Veterans Grave Sites – Committee would like to have the Rock County Board's allotment of VA funds to be used solely for repair and upkeep of veterans grave sites/markers. The Town of Turtle has the responsibility of doing the mowing and general upkeep of grounds anyway. All members in agreement on this item and Tim Kopp will present it to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration.

9. **New Business:**

- a) LLS Projection – Committee waiting for Kevin to give information for consideration and for 2010 budget purposes.
- b) 2010 Project Budget – The committee review 2009 and 2010's budget requests for comparables and requested general information of the Sexton. In general the charges were all very much in line with that of 2009's budget and will remain the same. The committee would like to have more monies in the "restorations of markers" area and also have the VA funds designed separately, being sole used for VA markers. A total of \$9,650.00 will be requested for the 2010 Cemetery Budget. A break down of funds will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for their review before the October Board Meeting. Motion made to approve by Don Jones, seconded by Ethel Maxworthy, and so carried.
- c) This item was raised to the #7 spot, "Citizens Remarks" area of the Agenda.

- 10. **Next Meeting:** Next meeting will be on November 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Turtle Town Service Center. **PLEASE NOTE:** No meeting will be conducted in October 2009.
- 11. **Adjournment:** Motion made to adjourn by Tim Kopp, seconded by Ethel Maxworthy, approved by all present at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Swanson, Secretary

## TOWN OF TURTLE 2010 BUDGET REQUEST CEMETERY COMMITTEE

GRAVE SITE OPENINGS	\$ 5,000.00
Average of 12-15 grave sites annually	
RESTORATION OF MARKERS	\$ 2,500.00
Continuing Stone Restoration	
RESTORATION TO VETERANS MARKERS	\$ 400.00
Fund given to cemeteries for purpose to be used for veterans by the Rock Co V.A.	
CEMETERY FLAGS (FOR SITE MARKERS)	\$ 250.00
MISCELLANEOUS:	\$ 1,500.00
Including but not limited to:	
Grass seeding, general upkeep	
Repair and maintenance of roads, grounds,	
Any additional dirt, tools, and unexpected expenses.	
New Signage	
TOTAL REQUEST FOR 2010	<hr/> \$ 9,650.00

The above figures were voted and approved by the Cemetery Committee members attending the September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 regular meeting. Two member was absent at the time of voting.

Voting Members: Ralph Carlson  
Ethel Maxworthy  
Jean Swanson  
Don Jones, Chairman  
Tim Kopp, Supervisor

Absent: Chuck Wollslair  
Greg Skokut

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Jones, Chairman  
Jean Swanson, Secretary